

Remarks

Claims 21-42 are currently under examination in this application. Claim 21 is amended by adding the features of claim 24, and claim 24 is cancelled in this response. There are no other changes to the claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 112 and the Specification

Requirement to Provide Industry Standard EN 50254

Claim 34 is rejected as being indefinite because it refers to EN 50254, the specification does not provide all of the requisite information regarding EN 50254, and a copy of EN 50254 has not been provided.

One further Amendment has been made to the specification with this Amendment after Final Action. That amendment is to include the specifics of industry standard EN 50254 in the specification. This change does not add new matter, but rather, meets the Examiner's requirement to include this information in the specification.

Applicant respectfully believes that inclusion of the above-mentioned details in the specification, as well as submission of a copy of the relevant portion of EN 50254, overcomes the Examiner's "112" rejections and should eliminate the rejections to the specification and claims set forth in the Office Action.

Information Disclosure Statement

An IDS is submitted herewith for the relevant portions of EN 50254, as well as copy of European Patent 0 551 114 A1 (including a translation thereof).

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 21-23 and 25-33 are rejected as being anticipated by Ying.

Valid rejection under 35 USC 102 requires that each feature of a rejected claim be disclosed in a single reference. “For anticipation under 35 USC 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present.” MPEP 706.02(a)

The Examiner argues that Ying shows modules that are connected in line. Applicant believes that the Examiner interprets the subject matter of the claimed invention incorrectly. The subject matter of claim 1 relates to modules that are connected electrically in line. To emphasize this feature, claim 1 is amended by deleting the term “at least” before one supply voltage input.

Ying shows a network in which modules having a fault are switched off. In the Examiner’s opinion, the modules are connected in line. But Ying’s Figures show only one single line. This line symbolizes the connection to the bus (see Ying, column 14, lines 26-29). The electrical connection of the power supply is not explicitly shown. Accordingly, the modules could also be connected parallel, for example. There is no hint to an in-line electrical connection, as stated in the Office Action.

Additionally, Ying does not relate to a device that explicitly controls the power supply and switches off the power supply if a module has a short-circuit.

It is important to emphasize that according to the present invention, the power supply is totally disconnected and not the power supply of a single module only. It is not the object of our invention to keep the rest of the bus system in operation. It is the object of the present invention to enable an easier recognition of the reason and the place of a fault.

Further, Ying does not show an ascertaining device for ascertaining at least one electrical variable at the supply voltage output. Ying shows a CPU for controlling the network. But, Ying does not disclose that the power supply is monitored via this CPU.

Accordingly, the subject matter of present claim 1, as amended, is new.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 24 and 35-42 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Ying and Schminke.

A further change in this Amendment After Final Action is to incorporate the features of claim 24 into claim 21. This feature relates to monitoring the supply current.

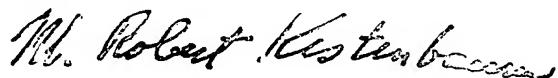
The Examiner appears to believe that Schminke relates to a device that disconnects network modules. Schminke does not relate to network components.

A person of ordinary skill in the art does not find a hint in Schminke leading to the subject matter of the present invention. Consequently, the present invention is not obvious over Ying and Schminke.

A one-month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested. PTO 2038 authorizing charging a credit card in the amount of \$120 is enclosed for the prescribed Large Entity one-month extension fee, as well as the \$180 IDS fee, for a total of \$300 to be charged to the credit card.

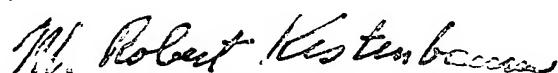
Wherefore further consideration and allowance of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



M. Robert Kestenbaum  
Reg. No. 20,430  
11011 Bermuda Dunes NE  
Albuquerque, NM USA 87111  
Telephone (505) 323-0771  
Facsimile (505) 323-0865

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Mail Stop AF with Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 14, 2005.

  
M. Robert Kestenbaum